Nakabiya to Kursela in Khagaria district in Bihar is very fertile and the farmers there have to bear exorbitant prices due to dependence on other bazaars for manure/fertilizers required for fertile agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a manure fertilizer factory in Khagaria region for the benefit of farmers;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Urea, a controlled fertilizer and decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are made available to farmers of the country including those belonging to Khagaria District in Bihar at statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP)/indicative MRPs. The MRP/indicative MRPs of fertilizers are uniform throughout the country.

(b) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Banned pesticides

4646. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of banned pesticides are still being used by farmers of Punjab and elsewhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to curb and check the marketing of such pesticides and action taken against culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government does not have any authentic report regarding use of banned pesticides by farmers in Punjab and other parts of the country.

(c) The manufacture, sale, distribution and use of banned pesticides is a punishable offence under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Insecticide inspectors have been provided with the requisite powers to ensure that the provisions of the Act and the Rules made there under are compiled with.

Horticulture promotion in Orissa

4647. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: